

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SUVA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 185691

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, EINV, NH, UK, FR

SUBJECT: NEW HEBRIDES LAND PROBLEMS

REF: SUVA 808

1. POUCH IN WHICH NEW HEBRIDES FILE CONTAINED APPARENTLY HUNG UP IN LOS ANGELES DUE TO PANAM FLIGHT CURTAILMENT. WILL REACH NANDI ON PANAM 25 AUG.

2. FILE LEFT WITH YOU IN MARCH CONTAINS MAIN ELEMENTS OF NEW HEBRIDES LAND SITUATION AND AMALGAMATED INVOLVEMENT. NEW FILE ESSENTIALLY REORDERS MATERIAL INTO CHRONOLOGY AND COMMENTARY, WITH DOCUMENTATION. IT IS BELIEVED AMALGAMATED LAND ATTORNEY IN VILA, DAVID CURTIS, SHOULD HAVE COPIES OF THIS FILE. SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ENROUTE BY POUCH FOLLOWS:

3. MEMORANDUM FROM WILLIAM WEEMS, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO SEN. INOUE, CONSISTING OF CHRONOLOGY, COMMENTARY, AND DOCUMENTATION. DOCUMENT DISCUSSES ACTIONS OF DEVELOPERS PRIOR AND SUBSEQUENT TO AUGUST 1971; NATURE AND EFFECTS OF JOINT UNCLASSIFIED

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REGULATIONS 15 (CONTROL OF SUBDIVISIONS), 16 (TAXATION),

18 (IMMIGRATION), AND 22 (TAXATION), ALL OF 1971;
DIFFERENCES IN ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS BETWEEN FRENCH AND
BRITISH RESIDENCIES; HISTORY OF ENSUING LEGAL PROCEEDINGS;
AND LOCAL ATTITUDES ON ESPIRITU SANTO. SHOULD ALSO BE
NOTED THAT FINAL PARAGRAPH THIS DOCUMENT, WHICH WAS PRE-
PARED FOR BRITISH AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS, IMPLIES THAT
DEPARTMENT IN ADVOCACY ROLE. THIS IS NOT REPEAT NOT
ACCURATE.

4. LETTER FROM WEEMS TO DEPTOFF, PERTINENT PORTIONS OF
WHICH SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

"THIS LETTER IS TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECENT PHONE CONVERSATION
CONCERNING UPCOMING DEPARTMENT INQUIRY INTO PROBLEM OF
LAND REGISTRATION BY HAWAIIANS IN NEW HEBRIDES. SENATOR
INOUE IS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THIS INQUIRY FINALLY BE
MADE. PERSONS IN THE NEW HEBRIDES WHO SHOULD BE CONTACTED
ARE:

MR. DAVID CURTIS
SUITE 18, OCEANA BUILDING
CNR, RUE BOUGAINVILLE & RUE DE PARIS,
PORT VILA
PHONE: 653/4 X26, AND

MR. JAMES STEPHENS, J.T.P.S.
MOSES AND UNION COUNCIL
"NA-GRIAMEL" OF SANTOS AND NEIGHBOURING ISLANDS
C/O POST OFFICE
SANTOS, NEW HEBRIDES

IT IS MY RECOMMENDATION THAT YOU HAVE DEPARTMENT REPRE-
SENTATIVE IMMEDIATELY CONTACT CURTIS UPON HIS ARRIVAL
AND PRIOR TO ANY FORMAL MEETING WITH THE TWO CONDOMINIUM
REPRESENTATIVES.

I WOULD PARTICULARLY LIKE TO HAVE THE STATE DEPARTMENT
KEEP IN MIND VARIOUS ISSUES AND POINTS ESTABLISHED IN
THE MEMORANDUM WHICH I INCLUDED WITH THIS LETTER (PARA 2
ABOVE) AND SPEAK TO THESE POINTS IN THEIR REPORT IF AT
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ALL POSSIBLE. AS WE ARE ALSO QUITE CONCERNED WITH ISSUE
OF NATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENT, AS WELL AS FUTURE
BRITISH POLICIES THIS AREA, WE WOULD LIKE REPRESENTATIVE
TO DO SURVEY WORK ON THE NATIVE ISSUE.

THE SENATOR WOULD ALSO LIKE TO BE APPRAISED OF GENERAL
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NEW HEBRIDES. INCLUDED IN THIS
ANALYSIS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE PROJECTION AND ANALYSIS OF

TOTAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PICTURE OF NEW HEBRIDES OVER NEXT TEN TO TWENTY YEARS."

5. LETTER TO YOU FROM EA/ANP DIRECTOR MOSER, PORTIONS OF WHICH SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

"CONCERNING WEEMS' SUGGESTIONS, WE ARE INFORMING HIM AS FOLLOWS:

A. YOU WILL BE BEST JUDGE OF HOW TO PROCEED; SPECIFICALLY, ON WHETHER TO TALK TO CURTIS BEFORE OR AFTER YOU CALL ON RESIDENT COMMISSIONERS.

B. STEPHENS AND HIS MOVEMENT ARE SENSITIVE POLITICALLY. AGAIN, YOU WILL HAVE TO JUDGE ADVISABILITY OF TALKING TO HIM.

C. YOUR VISIT WILL BE STRICTLY FOR INFORMATION GATHERING, AND NOT TO ADVOCATE OR CRITICIZE POSITION OF EITHER RESIDENT COMMISSIONERS OR PRIVATE PARTIES.

D. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ASSESS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BUT NOTHING OF SCOPE THAT WEEMS SUGGESTS IS POSSIBLE. DATA BASE FOR A SURVEY DOES NOT EXIST, NOR DO WE HAVE RESOURCES TO UNDERTAKE INDEPENDENT, IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF THE TYPE SUGGESTED.

IT WOULD BE USEFUL AND INTERESTING TO TALK TO STEPHENS, AS WELL AS OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS, NOT ONLY FOR PURPOSES OF INQUIRY. POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WEIGH HEAVILY IN UK CONSIDERATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT, AND BALANCE AND OBJECTIVITY THAT YOU CAN BRING TO BEAR ON THIS ASPECT WILL BE MOST WELCOME.

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/YOUR REPORT DEAL WITH THREE BASIC ASPECTS OF ISSUE: POLITICAL CONDITIONS, LAND OWNERSHIP AND ALIENATION, AND SPECIFIC ISSUE OF REGULATIONS CONCERNING LAND REGISTRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

ON ISSUE OF "RETROACTIVE" REGULATIONS, YOU NEED NOT FEEL COMPELLED TO DELVE INTO LEGAL DIMENSIONS, BUT RATHER LIMIT YOURSELF TO STRAIGHTFORWARD EXAMINATION OF HISTORY OF DEVELOPMENTS. IN ADDITION TO THESE BASIC ISSUES, VIEWS OF CONDOMINIUM GOVERNMENT (RESIDENT COMMISSIONERS) SHOULD BE REPORTED, INCLUDING VIEWS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. ANY INDEPENDENT OBSERVATIONS YOU CAN MAKE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL.

IN REPORTING RESULTS OF TRIP, YOU SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THAT

WE WILL WANT TO TURN OVER YOUR REPORT DIRECTLY TO SENATOR
INOUE'S OFFICE. YOU MIGHT FURNISH A BRIEF SUMMARY BY
TELEGRAM, THEN THE FULL REPORT BY AIRGRAM. PLEASE SEND
EVERYTHING TO LONDON AND PARIS DIRECTLY." KISSINGER

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